

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a bus communication system, and in particular to a bus communication system in which a hub device is provided between a host and a bus device under the universal serial bus (USB) or USB-OTG (USB-On-The-Go) standard and communication is made between the host and the bus device over ~~[[tired]]~~ tiered hub devices. The invention relates also to a line-concentrating and switching device advantageously for use in a hub device, which is provided in tiers for transmitting data. This invention further relates to a host device to control the hub device and devices, which are interconnected in tiers to form a network.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, even though the actual connection is as shown in FIG. 1, the ~~hub device 14~~ USB device 18 may be handled as if it has been connected to the hub device 14, by the virtual port constructing functional unit 20 constructing the virtual port 32. By doing so, the hub device 16 does not have to take the USB device 18 into account. With the host device 12, the number of the tiers of connection, which is based on the virtual port constructing functional unit 20 of the hub device 14, may be equal to or more than seven.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

At a time T32, the hub device 16 opens the downstream facing port to accord permission for communication to the device 18. Thereafter, at a time T34, the hub device 16 newly reports device detection to the host device 12 ~~USB device 18~~, connected to its upstream facing port, as will be described later. In this case, the hub device 16, connected to the USB device 18, does not make direct report on device connection, as may be seen from a broken line 44. At a time T36, the hub device 14 newly reports device detection to the host device 12.

Please replace paragraph [0092] with the following amended paragraph:

By this operation, the USB devices may be controlled from a master even if plural networks of different USB standards ~~[[exit]]~~ exist together. Specifically, printing may be made by controlling the printer from the personal computer 68, as in the present embodiment.

Please replace paragraph [0102] with the following amended paragraph:

The USB controller 82 is contained in the aforementioned PDA 66, although not shown, and represents a characteristic functional unit of the PDA. The USB network ~~[[76]]~~ 74 includes a hub device 84 provided between the PDA 66 and the printer 70, as is different from the structure shown in FIG. 7.

Please replace paragraph [0103] with the following amended paragraph:

The USB-OTG network 76 includes the personal computer 68 and the PDA 66 functioning as USB-OTG devices. In the USB network 74, there are provided the PDA 66, a ~~[[bus]]~~ hub device 84 and the printer 70 acting as USB devices and interconnected as illustrated in FIG. 10. When the personal computer 68 transfers printing data to the printer 70 through the PDA 66, a delay due to a low-speed response from the printer 70 would cause the personal computer 68 to wait and be obstructed from multi-tasking.